



Transportation

November 2015 Newsletter

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Division II

COUNTIES SERVED / Alleghany, Ashe, Avery,
Caldwell, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin

NCDOT Reminds Motorists to Keep Alert for Deer During Fall Months



This pretty girl can be dangerous. NCDOT wants to remind drivers to watch out for deer during the fall months.

As the temperature starts dropping and leaves start falling, another sign of the changing season is more deer along North Carolina roadways and in turn, a greater chance of hitting a deer.

Between 2012 and 2014, nearly half of the 58,372 animal-related crashes in the state took place from October through December. About 90 percent of those involved deer.

A new [N.C. Department of Transportation study](#) shows there were 17,831 animal-related crashes in 2014 - the lowest number since 2006. But over the past three years, animal-related crashes claimed 11 lives, injured 3,386 drivers and passengers and caused nearly \$145 million in damages.

The top five counties with animal-related crashes reported last year in North Carolina include:

1. Wake: 794
2. Pitt: 562
3. Guilford: 550

Stay Connected



N.C. Transportation
Now

On this week's N.C. Transportation Now, the department awards a contract for construction of a new temporary bridge on Pea Island, a new connector road has opened in Mooresville to provide better access to industrial areas, and tickets are now available for the Santa Train.

[Watch here.](#)

4. Duplin: 445
5. Randolph: 444

[Find out where your county stacks up.](#)

Flake-Free Snow Day



NCDOT crews get set for winter well before our first icy blast.

On a foggy, 61-degree October morning in the mountains, crews with the N.C. Department of Transportation are preparing for snow.

"When it does start snowing, we don't want to be here in the yard with our equipment broken down," says Jerry Combs, NCDOT's Avery County Maintenance Engineer.

This month, his crews and NCDOT maintenance employees in counties across the mountains schedule a "snow day", when plows are put through the paces and tire chains are stowed in their places. Drivers run their routes, and no detail is overlooked. "Sometimes, it's as simple as fixing a light or tightening a hose," explains Combs. "This day of preparation is very important to our operation."

Avery County has one of the earliest "snow days" in the state, for good reason. For the last two years, there's been measurable snowfall here on Halloween.

"We also make sure we're stocked up with salt and sand, since our season starts early, and we are often still treating icy patches into May," adds Combs.

In addition to improving travel conditions for people who live and work in the mountains, Combs and his crews have the responsibility for clearing the way for visitors drawn in by falling flakes. Avery County is home to two ski areas, Sugar Mountain and Ski Beech. "Tourism is important. We want to welcome those visitors to our area with safe roads."



NCDOT News

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Board Approves Allocation of Additional Funds for Highway and Bridge Maintenance and Preservation

The recently passed state budget will allow NCDOT to make a greater investment in taking care of and improving North Carolina's existing highways and bridges.

The General Assembly appropriated nearly \$500 million in additional funding in the two-year budget (for fiscal years 2016 and 2017) for maintenance and preservation work. NCDOT distributes these funds yearly to the divisions based on need.

The Board of Transportation approved each division's initial funding amount for Fiscal Year 2016 at its August meeting, and approved the additional funding at its October meeting.

Here's what that means for Division 11 for Fiscal Year 2016, which runs July 1, 2015, until June 30, 2016:

- An additional \$5.8 million was allocated to improve deficient bridges. This brings the division's total Bridge Program funding to \$27.5 million.
- An additional \$4.6 million was allocated for resurfacing, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$26.8 million.
- An additional \$4.5 million was allocated for highway preservation, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$12.7 million.
- An additional \$3.4 million was allocated for secondary roads, bringing the total funding for this type of work to \$23.3 million.

This will allow the division to accelerate work that had been planned for next fiscal year.

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